

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 AID-05 /087 W

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5358

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 1895

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, GT

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CONTINUING GUATEMALAN REACTION

REF: GUATEMALA 1658

1. SUMMARY: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER HAS AGAIN CRITICIZED US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY, THIS TIME AS ERRONEOUS AND UNJUST. GUATEMALAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER HAD DEFENDED ADMINISTRATION POLICY AND DENIED THAT IT CONSTITUTES INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

2. IN HIS SECOND COMMENT ON US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN PAST TEN DAYS ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ALFREDO OBIOLS GOMEZ WAS QUOTED IN FRONT PAGE HEADLINED ARTICLE IN MARCH 24 EDITION OF LIBERAL DAILY AFTERNOON LA TARDE AS SAYING "US HAS COMMITTED AN ERROR (HA INCURRIDO EN PREVARICATO)". PRESS ARTICLE STATES THAT: "IN HIS STATEMENT OBIOLS DELVED INTO OTHER FACTS RELATING TO REPORT THAT GUATEMALA IS A COUNTRY THAT VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS, SAYING THAT IT WAS WRITTEN BASED ON UNRELIABLE REPORTS, OR USED UNCLASSIFIED

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SOURCES THAT NEITHER ARE COMPETENT NOR HAVE THE NECESSARY CREDIBILITY BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS. ONE OF THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, AN ORGANIZATION WHICH GOG DOES NOT RECOGNIZE AS HAVING ANY RIGHT TO JUDGE OUR NATIONAL SITUATION. IN OTHER CASES (THE REPORT) DEALS WITH PRIVATE ANONYMOUS SOURCES. BASICALLY THE ANOMALY EXISTS BECAUSE THERE IS A LACK OF RESPECT FOR DUE PRO-

CESS. NO COMPETENT TRIBUNAL HAS BEEN CONSTITUTED TO ISSUE JUDGMENTS OVER THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CERTAIN CASES. A COUNTRY CANNOT JUST MAKE ITSELF INTO A POPULAR COURT TO JUDGE OTHERS. (THE US) HAS ALSO COMMITTED THE ERROR OF CONDEMNING GUATEMALA WITHOUT HAVING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO THE APPROPRIATE BODIES TO MAKE A SUITABLE RESPONSE. GUATEMALA HAS BEEN JUDGED, CONDEMNED WITHOUT HAVING BEEN HEARD, AND GIVEN ITS SENTENCE. THEREBY A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF JUSTICE HAS BEEN COMMITTED." NO OTHER NEWSPAPER HAS THUS FAR REPORTED OBIOLS' COMMENTS.

3. IN A LETTER PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 25 EDITION OF PRO-GOVERNMENT MORNING DAILY LA NACION, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER RENE DE LEON SCHLOTTER REPLIED TO A MARCH 22 NACION EDITORIAL WHICH CRITICIZED HIM AND OTHERS FOR SUPPORTING AMERICAN INTERVENTION WHEN IT HELPED THE LIBERALS AND OPPOSING IT WHEN IT HELPED THE CONSERVATIVES. IN HIS LETTER DE LEON DENIES SUPPORTING AMERICAN INTERVENTION AT ANY TIME. "RELATIONS AMONG STATES SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO ESTABLISHED RULES, ONE OF WHICH IS PRECISELY 'NONINTERVENTION', A NATURAL PRINCIPLE WHICH WE CONSIDER JUST AND WHICH I HAVE PERSONALLY DEFENDED IN MANY INTERNATIONAL FORA, INCLUDING IN THE US. MY APPEARANCE BEFORE THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE US CONGRESS WAS FUNDAMENTALLY BASED ON THIS THESIS, FOR I CRITICIZED AMERICAN POLICY IN LATIN AMERICA WHICH HAS PROMOTED THE

FACTOR GOVERNMENTS OF A CLEARLY CONSERVATIVE BENT AND THAT HAVE IMPEDED THE FREE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR PEOPLES. I MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE CASE OF ANASTASIO SOMOZA WHO, NOT CONTENT TO SUBJUGATE NICARAGUA, TRIES TO

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INTERFERE IN CENTRAL AMERICAN POLITICS IN GENERAL, AS IS WELL KNOWN. THIS POLICY, WHETHER CONDUCTED IN AN OPEN OR COVERT FORM, IS INTERVENTION, DOUBLY SERIOUS WHEN IT INVOLVES UNDEMOCRATIC AND REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS. THIS IS THE TRULY NEW FORM OF INTERVENTION DREAMED UP BY THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION: INSTEAD OF INVADING A FOREIGN STATE, THEY SEND CIA AGENTS OR PERMIT MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS TO PROMOTE 'DE FACTO' GOVERNMENTS. CARTER HAS STARTED A NEW POLICY: MAKING HIMSELF THE CHAMPION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, HE HAS DECIDED TO SUSPEND MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THOSE NATIONS WHOSE GOVERNMENTS VIOLATE THOSE RIGHTS. THIS IS A UNILATERAL DECISION, BASED IN A MORAL AND JUST CONCEPTION OF WHAT SHOULD BE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, BECAUSE HE IS CONCERNED THAT AN ACTION (ARMS SALES) OF HIS GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT CONSTITUTE AN INSTRUMENT FOR VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY. THIS DECISION DOES NOT VIOLATE THE RIGHTS OF ANY NATION WHOSE GOVERNMENT RESPECTS HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR ANYONE, IN THE CASES OF CHILE, URUGUAY, BOLIVIA, ARGENTINA, CUBA AND BRAZIL, TO GO INVESTIGATING TO SEE IF HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BEING VIOLATED OR NOT. HE IS TALKING ABOUT DEEDS THAT HAVE

HISTORICALLY OCCURRED, SUCH AS POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, OR CULTURAL REPRESSION, SUCH AS OCCURS IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOCIALIST WORLD. THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA HAVE SUFFERED A LONG AND DIFFICULT HISTORY OF VIOLENCE, WHOSE MEMORY CANNOT BE EASILY ERASED AND WHERE THE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE ARE WELL KNOWN. THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CREATED AN UNENVIABLE IMAGE OF OUR COUNTRY THAT WE MUST ALL TRY TO ELIMINATE. WITH THIS END OUR CONGRESS SHOULD RATIFY THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS TAKING NOTE OF THE PETITION WHICH I PRESENTED IN MY CAPACITY AS A CITIZEN SOME MONTHS AGO. ACTIONS SUCH AS THESE ARE POSITIVE FOR OUR NATIONAL PRESTIGE."

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Message Attributes

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